

Hafa Adai!

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1 passenger tests positive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A passenger who traveled to Saipan last Nov. 17 tested positive for COVID-19 last Nov. 22, raising the CNMI's total to 104.

» 3 die in Guam

According to a statement from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the individual was confirmed positive on their fifth day of testing. The individual has been safely in **See POSITIVE on Page 4**

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The expected arrival today of the COVID-19 vaccine has been moved to another date,

and Warren Villagomez, head of the COVID-19 Task Force, assured that the delay is not on the CNMI's side.

Wire news state that the vaccine maker, Pfizer, has asked

the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for an Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA.

See VACCINE on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 22, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,346	0	6,346
Recovered	4,341	0	4,341
Active	1,905	0	1,905
Deaths	103	3	106
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			79,919

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	103	1	104
Traced via Travel Screening	77	1	78
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			97

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



Over \$25M in PUA claims to be released this week

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of La-

bor has reported that over \$25 million in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims will be released to beneficia-

ries this week.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said at a news briefing last Friday that the CNMI

Department of Finance is set to release about \$25.9 million worth of PUA funds for both direct deposit and paper checks.

Benavente added that pay-

ments will be from pay date Sept. 29 to Oct. 6. More payments should be forthcoming in the following weeks once DOL receives more funds

See \$25M on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

Joe Biden is moving quickly to name top leaders for his Cabinet as early as next week.

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WORLD

Iran grapples with the worst outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in the Mideast region.

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LIFE & STYLE

Natalia Lafourcade follows in Rosalía's footsteps with a big win at the 2020 Latin Grammys.

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Local

8 contestants for 2021 Miss Marianas

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Non-profit organization Stellar Marianas introduced last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center the eight contestants who will be competing in the 2021 Miss Marianas Pageant, which will take place on March 14, 2021.

The eight contestants are Vincent Rabasto, Lily Carrillo, Toremy Diaz, Naomi Lizama,

Ha'ane Eugenio Bernadette Horey, Richelle Ramon, and Savannah Delos Santos.

According to Stellar Marianas president Michelle Sablan, the pageant is going to be an in-person contest at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan. She assured, though, that the pageant will follow strict COVID-19 guidelines.

"We are so grateful. I understand that, given the pandemic

and businesses are suffering these days...we want to thank our business partners for their continued support, because without their support, you know, it'd be really difficult to have a pageant of this type of caliber," said Sablan.

The only difference between this upcoming pageant and previous pageants, besides the pandemic, is that it will be their first year in a while to have a full slate of

contestants; in previous years, it's usually just between five and six women.

"We need to have something positive like this to continue on and give the community something to look forward to. The young women that are here today are offering themselves up to this experience, a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and that they'll find that they become almost like sisters in this journey on the road to the

crown," said Sablan.

Delos Santos, 23, is no stranger to the pageant world. A previous contestant at the 2014 Miss Teen Marianas, she said she has since learned much that she said she can now put to good use. In her run for 2014 Miss Teen Marianas, Delos Santos was able to bag the 2014 Miss Stellar Star Award and the 2014 Miss Marianas Friendship Award.

"One of the biggest things that I would be able to bring for myself is just more self-confidence...and I feel more prepared this time," said Delos Santos. When asked what she would bring to the team from her previous experience, Delos Santos said that working

with someone who has been through pageant experience and hearing advice would be helpful and encouraging for others.

Delos Santos said that she's most excited about the growth and involvement that she will be able to achieve this time around, and that she will be able to focus on other specific areas that she lacked in the Miss Teen Pageant.

"I feel that being part of a pageant or being part of Miss Marianas, you're a lot more involved in the community, and I'm really excited for that. I'm so excited to be a lot more involved and just be able to connect with others here," said Delos Santos.

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Contestants of the 2021 Miss Marianas Pageant have a photo shoot at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Saturday, Nov. 21.

'Low 72.05% election turnout'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

This year's general election had a 72.05% voter turnout, which is low compared to previous elections in the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez said there were a total of 18,535 registered voters and only 3,970 voted on Election Day on Nov. 3, while 8,130 did the early voting and 1,255 were absentee voters.

CEC earlier predicted a low turnout because of the COV-

ID-19 pandemic and midterm elections have historically had low turnouts.

Villagomez said there were nine blank ballots on election day, one blank absentee ballot, and 21 blank ballots on early voting, for a total of 31 blank ballots.

The 2018 general elections proved to be the biggest in CNMI history, with 18,926 registered voters and a total of 14,649 who voted, translating to a high voter turnout of 77.4%.

In the 2014 general election, out of 17,986 registered voters, a total of 13,798 voted—a 76.7% turnout.

Woman out on probation tests positive for meth

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A woman who is currently awaiting trial on a drug case and is out on probation has tested positive for methamphetamine or "ice."

Mary Rose Herradura, who is set for a jury trial on Dec. 15, appeared for an initial hearing before U.S. District Court

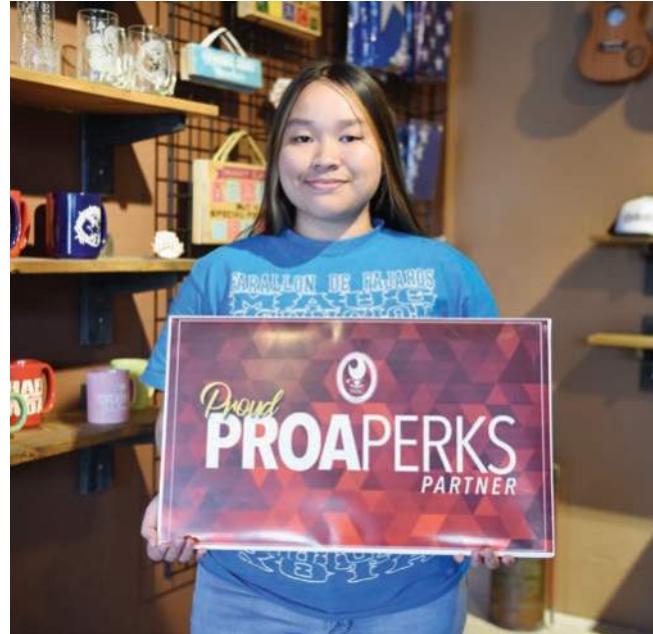
After the hearing, U.S. pro-

for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona where she pleaded not guilty to the drug charges against her.

Manglona allowed Herradura to remain free but imposed conditions to include pretrial supervision, drug testing, and participation in a substance abuse treatment program.

After the hearing, U.S. pro-

4EVER CNMI signs on as NMC ProaPerks Partner



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NMC

4EVER CNMI is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

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NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.php.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)

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bation officer Greg Arriola said that Herradura reported to U.S. Probation Office for a drug test, during which she tested positive for methamphetamine.

Herradura admitted using ice because she was nervous about her court hearing after Arriola informed her of her results.

On Oct. 20, 2020, probation officer Juanette David-Atalig submitted Herradura's treatment referral documents to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center.

Herradura reported back to the probation office on Nov. 9 to sign related documents but the defendant was observed to be slurring her speech and had odd mannerisms. However, when asked about drug use, Herradura at first denied it but later admitted using methamphetamine on the evening of Nov. 6.

Herradura explained that a friend had stopped by her apartment to visit and began to smoke the drug in front of her. She said she asked her friend to stop what she was doing, but she ignored her. The de-

fendant eventually gave in and ended up smoking with this individual.

On Nov. 11, Herradura notified the probation office that the sweat patch she had on for monitoring purposes had fallen off.

Herradura claimed that the patch had fallen off because she was sweating after catching a fever, but a probation officer told her that her explanation was highly unlikely.

She was then subjected to a drug test, which tested positive for methamphetamine.

Herradura then admitted

that she used meth on Nov. 9 and said that she removed the sweat patch from her arm.

On Nov. 17, Herradura tested positive for meth use again after a random test. Herradura denied using meth so the specimen was sent to the national drug testing laboratory.

Arriola asked the court to summon Herradura to appear at a hearing to determine whether her pre-trial release conditions should be modified or revoked.

The court scheduled a hearing today at 10am.

Herradura is accused of conspiring with others in possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.



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Artist paints mural at Naval Base Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—A vibrant mural emblazoned with the Chamorro greeting, “Hafa Adai,” and depictions of the island are now featured along the walls of Clipper Landing restaurant on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

During three weeks of outlining and painting, artist and Umatac resident Ben Quinata returned to old stomping grounds and left his mark at the establishment overlooking Sumay Marina.

Quinata, a 46-year-old John F. Kennedy High School art teacher, painted an homage to the local culture after working with Morale, Welfare, and Recreation acting director Donna Spaddy.

“We wanted to do something that reflected the local culture and showcase the area, we knew we wanted to do something sea themed,” Quinata said. “Donna wanted an area that would give people a photo op. We included a bunch of local images, she sent me some references and I did a couple of sketches and

narrowed it down.”

A portion of the mural is a 26-by-9 foot large fishing hook seal, resembling the Guam seal, but with Quinata’s personal artistic touches including two men sailing in the painted proa and the hook seal flanked by red hibiscus flowers.

Another portion of the wall is a 7-by-16 foot mural of the words “Hafa Adai” with each letter from the words representing a different depiction of the island, including images of Chief Gadao of Inarajan, the view of Ft. Soledad overlooking Umatac Bay, an ancient CHamoru hut, and pink plumeria blossoms.

“I love the flow. You want to be able to have the viewer led through the entire piece so they take in the entire painting which is hard when you’re dealing with such a large area that is cornered,” Quinata said.

Spaddy said the painting will be an ideal place for patrons to take some photos when the restaurant re-

opens. A reopening date will be announced soon.

“All of us here love the mural and when we have the restaurant fully operational, it will be wonderful to see our patrons come and take photos in front of the amazing artwork—it’s really here for them to enjoy,” Spaddy said.

Quinata attended University of Guam and attributes much of what he has learned in art to his former professor and local artist, the late Jose “Joe” Babauta. “He was responsible for a lot of the murals in the area, his class taught us

how to source material, the steps, and break down,” Quinata said. “The mural by Price Elementary (school) with the coconut crabs - that was created by his students.”

Quinata is no stranger to working at NBG. Aside from working as a bagger at the Orote Commissary in his younger years, one of his first jobs in high school was working at the Navy Exchange as a Visual Merchandiser at the old Toy Land.

\$36 million from the last two years.

“If they pay sooner, great. What we’re trying to do is allow them the flexibility to use the funds they have or what they’re supposed to pay us to invest and finish the facility,” the secretary said.

Atalig said that in their last CLC meeting, they approved the six-month deferment of payment of the \$20 million CBF that was due last October.

“So this one overrides that. Because we are deferring for three years and not six months,” he said.

Atalig said in the last CLC meeting, the agenda cited deferment using *force majeure* as a reason and that they were able to approve a six-month delay in payment of the \$20 million CBF.

Force majeure refers to unforeseeable circumstances that prevent someone or business from fulfilling a contract.

He said in the last meeting, he was appointed to negotiate and finalize that with IPI. The secretary disclosed that in his meetings with IPI and CCC, they agreed or discussed that the benefit of this casino industry is to give IPI the flexibility, give them deferment of the \$20 million for three years.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

receive their lump sum will not receive the FPUC payment of \$600 until DOL receives additional funding, which is expected very soon.

“This is just for the PUA portion. Unfortunately, we had to hold back on paying FPUC claims because of the amount in the accounts. I want to make sure that we have more than enough for FPUC. I don’t want to pay just 1,000 applicants, I want to pay all the applicants as we move forward with this funding process with U.S. DOL,” she said.

As of Nov. 14, 2020, CNMI DOL has paid over \$108.4 million in PUA and FPUC benefits. Since June, more than \$72 million in PUA funds and more than \$86 million in FPUC funds have been obligated for current, ongoing, and future payments after adjudication.

“My high school art teacher got me that job at the old Toy Land warehouse,” Quinata said. “At 16, I was doing huge Disney character displays, creating and decorating.”

Quinata has other ties to the Navy, as his father, the late Jose M. Quinata, retired after 23 years in the Navy and also went onto working for Personnel Support Detachment Guam for another 16 years.

“When I first saw Ben’s work, I was in complete awe of the mural,” said NBG commanding officer Capt. Jeffrey Grimes. “He is so incredibly talented and I appreciate that he could share his work here at Naval Base Guam for those who live and work here to appreciate it as well. I know this isn’t the last of his work that we’ll be seeing here at NBG.” (PR)

VACCINE

From Page 1

for its COVID-19 vaccine, which it jointly developed with BioNTech.

Speaking at the regular radio news briefing last Friday, Villagomez assured that the CNMI is “opted in” and will receive the first allocation once the FDA gives the vaccine the required EUA. Villagomez stated that there is no new date yet as to when the CNMI will receive the vaccines but “we will remain on standby.”

With the delayed shipment of the vaccines, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres believes this will give the CNMI more time to be even more prepared once the vaccines come in.

When it comes to storage, Pfizer stated that their vaccine has to be kept at a -70°C. Villagomez stated that they are coordinating the procurement of a storage unit, which is in the final stage right now. The equipment has already been reserved, and is expected to arrive in the CNMI on time and be ready for the vaccines to be stored.

Good news for Rota and Tinian; they won’t have to fly to Saipan to get the vaccine. Villagomez stated that the storage unit will also be sent to Rota and Tinian.

Speaking at the same radio briefing, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther

Muña stated that they do have the capacity to store the vaccines now but, again, the amount of vaccines that the CNMI will get has not been confirmed.

“There’re numbers that have been floating around but, at the end of the day, it’s what’s actually sent over here to the CNMI,” said Muña. If they need additional space, she said they will definitely need the support of the CNMI government to add more storage space.

When asked if he will be one of the first to receive the vaccine as a means to reassure the community that the vaccine is safe, Torres stated that he and his family would “be happy to take it.” The first people who are expected to be inoculated with the vaccine are doctors, nurses, and other first responders.

“If I was offered, with the family, I would like to take that and showcase to our community that it is safe. ... The risk we are taking to take the vaccine is a lot better than waiting and worrying about being infected with COVID-19,” stated Torres.

According to Muña, CHCC’s main goal is to be transparent with the community. They are hoping to get data within the next few days that show the efficacy and safety of the vaccine. She added that there will be a survey for the community on how CHCC can address concerns and how they can gain the trust of the community.

POSITIVE

From Page 1

quarantine and was moved to the designated isolation area for monitoring.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed case, including passengers on the same flight.

It has been 97 days since the CNMI community has had a recorded case of community transmission of COVID-19.

Another statement from CHCC stated that 76 passengers were swabbed last Nov. 17 and all were confirmed negative on their fifth day of testing. Last Nov. 19, a total of 94 incoming passengers were swabbed and everyone tested negative for COVID-19.

According to CHCC, it takes an average of five to six days for an infected person with COVID-19 to start showing symptoms. Additionally, testing five days after the arrival will help find those who were not showing any signs of infections or who tested negative upon arrival.

CHCC emphasized that most positive cases are identified at the border

but that shouldn’t mean everyone can let their guard down.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Joint Information Center in Guam announced three more COVID-19-related deaths over the weekend, raising their total number of fatalities to 106.

According to JIC, Guam’s 104th COVID-19-related fatality happened at the Guam Memorial Hospital at approximately 2:36pm. The patient was a 57-year-old female with underlying health conditions that were compounded by COVID-19. She was admitted to GMH last Nov. 5 and was a known positive case.

Guam’s 105th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the U.S. Naval Hospital at approximately 11am last Nov. 21. The patient was a 59-year-old male with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to USNH last Oct. 31 and tested positive upon admission.

Guam’s 106th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 11:56pm last Nov. 21. The patient was a 51-year-old male with underlying conditions that were compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GRMC last Nov. 21 and tested positive upon admission.

IPI

From Page 1

Casino Commission’s conference room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, CLC chair Mark Rabauliman and commissioners David DLG Atalig and Robert Guerrero also approved a five-year deferment of IPI’s current \$36 million CBF liability for the last two years.

The commissioners came to that decision despite the opinion of the CLC legal counsel, assistant attorney general John P. Lowrey, who believes that the CLC is overstepping its authority. While enforcement authority lies with CCC in changing the relevant dates and times, Lowrey said that doing so while the CCC executive director’s case against IPI is still ongoing would be overstepping CLC’s authority. Lowrey said he believes it will probably end up being challenged in court.

“My view is that it would be better handled between IPI and the casino commission, then a negotiation between them, whether that takes the form of a settlement to a payment plan or something of that nature, rather than the Lottery Commission interjecting itself into an enforcement action that’s currently in front of another agency,” Lowrey said.

Atalig, who is also the CNMI Fi-

\$25M

From Page 1

from the U.S Department of Labor.

“The payouts for this week will be \$25.9 million, both direct deposits and paper checks. We’re paying up to Sept. 29 and we’re also processing payments for Oct. 6 and, moving forward, we hope to process the next week when we receive the next allotment from U.S. DOL,” she said.

People receiving these funds will only receive PUA payments and not Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

This means those who have yet to

Igisomar: Focus more on medicinal aspect of marijuana law

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), who was one of the main authors of the cannabis or marijuana law, believes the commercial aspect of the new industry "will happen no matter what," so he encourages the CNMI Cannabis Commission to give more focus on the law's medicinal aspect to help people who are suffering debilitating illnesses or have cancer.

Igisomar pointed out that this was, in fact, the original impetus behind the "Taulam-waar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018," which later became Public Law 20-66. That law authorized personal, medicinal, and commercial use of cannabis or marijuana in the CNMI.

Igisomar said last week that the history of the bill's purpose shows that it was originally strictly for medicinal use only in the beginning, then became inclusive of personal use, and then the commercial aspect. At that time, he said, the commercial aspect was never really the impetus of the bill because of opposition that could have snagged the bill's passage.

Igisomar raised this issue with the implementation of the cannabis law after the Cannabis Commission held

Judiciary to host program for freshmen lawmakers

The CNMI Judiciary will host the 9th Law and the Freshman Legislator program on Jan. 7, 2021. The program is held every two years the week before the newly-elected CNMI leaders take their oaths of office.

Invitations have been sent out to senators-elect Edith E. Deleon Guerrero (Saipan) and Karl King-Nabors (Tinian), and representatives-elect Roy Aldan Ada (Saipan), Celina Roberto Babauta (Saipan), Vicente Castro Camacho (Saipan), Patrick Hofsneider San Nicolas (Tinian), Leila Fleming Staffler (Saipan), and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai (Saipan).

The Law and the Freshman Legislator program, which started in 2004, consistently receives the highest evaluation marks among the Judiciary's outreach programs. Those elected leaders that went through the program found it to be very informative and recommended that the program be continued for future lawmakers.

The program provides an overview of statutory interpretation, the Covenant, the U.S. Constitution, the CNMI Constitution, legal research, and the role of the courts. (PR)

Tuesday a presentation about the commission and the marijuana industry before the Senate Committee on Cannabis and Gaming.

The senator said the concern of many people based on the original bill that he authored was to help people who are suffering debilitating illnesses. "It was never really commercial," he said.

He advised the commission not to focus so much on the commercial side as "it will happen no matter what."

By focusing hard on the commercial aspect, the commission will potentially be

affecting the people who truly need this bill and that is for medicinal purpose, he added. "And to clarify, the medicinal purpose is not so that you can authorize a laboratory inspection on a product just so that it can be sold in pharmaceuticals stores. That is not the purpose," he said.

Igisomar said that, based on the introduction of this bill, it's really for the medicinal purpose and traditional use of marijuana. "And so I'm hoping that the commission may be able to explore the licensing and or authorization [for that purpose]," he said.

The senator said he is aware of the challenges the commission faces and he hopes they will be able to overcome them so they can allow people to ac-

cess the medicinal aspect of this marijuana law "whereby they can plant whatever they need, to plant in order to help themselves. I'm really hoping that you are able to overcome the obstacles and put this medicinal aspect into place."

Igisomar said the reason why the personal use was allowed or inserted into this bill was for its medicinal purpose, but that the only way they can allow medicinal use of marijuana is through easy access, which is to allow personal use access and from there, people will be able to use marijuana for their own use.

Igisomar also requested the commission, if possible, to remove the language or use of the word recreational in their presentation. He pointed out that nowhere in the Taulam-waar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act is the word "recreational" used. "And there's a very good reason why," he said.

Igisomar said that in working on the non-medicinal side since 2014, they've always talked about the concept of personal use and, at that time, recreational use was being attacked in the U.S. mainland as a negative. He said they did not want to put any form of negativity into the bill or the act.

"So I'm recommending,

if it's not too much, to revisit your regulations," the senator said.

Igisomar said he is hoping that the commission stick to the personal use of marijuana. "That's very important," he said.

With respect to the data collection or registry, Igisomar said it is for the CNMI government to have information on the use of marijuana in the CNMI. He said it's strictly data and that he is happy that the Cannabis Commission is able to make sure that no one else will be able to access it. Igisomar said it's intended to prevent putting people at risk.

"And I'm bluntly saying

it's to prevent the federal government from raiding our people," he said.

The senator said if the federal government wants to do any raids, then they should use their own data and their own investigation at their own cost, but not at the CNMI's expense.

In September 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the marijuana bill into law, making the CNMI the first U.S. territory to legalize both the medical and recreational use of marijuana.

It also made the CNMI the first U.S. jurisdiction to do so through its Legislature, rather than via ballot initiative.

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■ No claims received from any private insurance due to Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu;

To pick up an application package, stop by the Kagman Community Center, DYS Admin, DYS Tinian or Rota Offices. You may download the form from www.dys.gov.mp.

For more information call (670)237-1015/1016/1018 or email Jennifer Tanaka at jtanaka@dys.gov.mp or Nina S. Nekafes at nnekafes@dys.gov.mp. (PR)

Hot lunch fundraiser

The Saipan Teens Unity Leos Club did their first fundraiser

last Nov. 21, 2020. The hot lunch fundraiser was held at Kilili Pavilion in front of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Leo members packed and sold 200 hot lunches. The purpose of this fundraiser is for Saipan Teen Unity Leo's training and development.

This fundraiser was led by Saipan Teen Unity Leo president Vicky Ancheta, with the help of Saipan Unity Club.

Thanks to Chowtime for sponsoring and providing the food for the fundraiser. (PR)

Micro Beach and tennis court parking lots temporary closed

The Micro Beach parking lot loop and the tennis court parking lot area at the American Memorial Park will be temporary closed between the hours of 8am and 5pm today and tomorrow, Nov. 23 and 24. The work is part of a larger effort to replace solar lighting throughout the park damaged during Super Typhoon Yutu.

While the park waits for the arrival of the new lights for installation, the Micro Beach parking lot will have areas that are not lit at night. The community is asked to exercise caution when visiting after dark. (NPS)

Webinar on filing business taxes online

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has joined with the CNMI Department of Commerce and their partner LocalGov for a step-by-step, online session to explain how to file your CNMI BGRT, hotel occupancy tax, and bar tax online.

The webinar will be on Tuesday, Nov. 24, from 10am to 11am and is limited to the first 100 registrants. For more information and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/cnmfilleonline>.

For more information, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Room 413). (PR)

DOD POW/MIAAA underwater survey in Guam

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency is conducting underwater surveys in the vicinity of Guam's coastal waterways.

A U.S. Navy vessel will support a portion of the DPAA team's diving operations to locate missing airmen from World War II.

Potential underwater survey areas around Guam include Asan Point, Hagatna Bay, Pago Bay, Pati Point, and Jipapson. The public is advised to be aware of DoD personnel operating in the areas. (PR)

USCIS updates naturalization policy

On Nov. 18, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services updated policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to clarify the circumstances when we would find applicants ineligible for naturalization because they were not lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Applicants are ineligible for naturalization if they obtained lawful permanent residence status in error, by fraud or otherwise not in compliance with the law.

The update also clarifies that we review whether applicants have abandoned their LPR status when we adjudicate their naturalization application. If an applicant does not meet the burden of establishing that they maintained LPR status, we generally deny the naturalization application and place the applicant in removal proceedings by issuing a Notice to Appear. The update also provides that we generally deny a naturalization application filed on or after the effective date if the applicant is in

removal proceedings pursuant to a warrant of arrest. (PR)

Military trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy is conducting training in Asan Point today, Nov. 23, from 6am to 11pm at the following coordinates: 13°29'N/144°45'E. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct

training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor on Nov. 23-24 from noon to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Mariners and residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada on Nov. 23-24, from noon to 11:55pm. The use of blank ammunition is authorized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on Nov. 23-24, from noon to 11:55pm at coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E, 13°42'N/144°36'E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of these events and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Hagatna Bay on Nov. 24-27, from 6am to 11pm at the following coordinates: 13°29'N/144°45'E. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay on Nov. 25, from 8am to 5pm. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Pago Bay on Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, from 6am to 11pm. The public is advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. (PR)

Upcoming SHEFA deadlines

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is reminding the public of its upcoming deadlines:

■ Deadline for spring 2021 application only is Dec. 1, 2020.

■ Deadline for spring 2021 supporting documents is Feb. 28, 2021. (Make sure all documents are complete before submission). (PR)


**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar years 2020 and 2021. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY - MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)
15. Registration on the System for Award Management (SAM) official U.S. Government website and provide DUNS (number).

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"


**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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Notice of Re-opening of the Distribution of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)-COVID Program Pre-Applications

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the re-opening of the distribution of pre-applications of the ESG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of \$1,090,630 in ESG-COVID funds to provide financial assistance for CNMI households, specifically for rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits. The assistance period is for a total of (12) months and will be on a first come, first serve basis. NMHC has allocated 25% of the grant for the elderly and disabled population. The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in substandard conditions which poses an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income). See FY 2020 HUD income limits below
- Must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options

Application Steps

- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net. Link: https://nmhcgov.net/resources/files/2020%20ESG%20Pre-application%20V2%20updated%2006_29_20.pdf
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices (you may submit at the front office or in the Drop Box located in front of the building), the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

If you have already applied for the ESG-COVID program, the NMHC case workers are currently assessing your pre-applications and you will be contacted for the next steps. On August 21, 2020, NMHC stopped taking pre-applications in order to conduct the screening of a significant number of pre-applications and also to conduct case management. **NMHC is reopening the pre-application process. You may pick up an ESG pre-application at the NMHC, Saipan Central Office, Rota Field Office, and Tinian Field Office starting October 28, 2020. The distribution of pre-applications will end on November 30, 2020.** Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, Tricia Tenorio, Planner, or Sweetielyn Sokau, Planning Assistant, at the 234-6866/7689/9447.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Attention CNMI Government Employees, Retirees and Surviving Spouses

It's Open Enrollment time

Open enrollment runs Monday, November 16 — Friday, December 18

We're honored to continue delivering health insurance coverage and well-being resources to CNMI Government active employees, retirees, surviving spouses and your families throughout this challenging year and beyond.

Our goal is to provide you with access to the highest levels of care and support possible through our:

- Strong local presence, in partnership with Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
- Comprehensive global resources
- 24/7 Member Service Support

Due to COVID-19 your enrollment experience looks different this year.

But don't worry ... we've got you covered.

Your health and safety are paramount. That's why we're doing Open Enrollment a little differently this year:

- We're adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols and government regulations
- Visit the websites listed below to view your Open Enrollment material and enrollment/change of status form to help you choose the best plan for you and your loved ones
- Open Enrollment support will be available by phone
(in-person meetings will be limited to appointment only)

After reviewing your plan options and premium cost share, if you're satisfied with your current plan and coverage, you DO NOT need to submit an enrollment form. Your current benefits will be rolled over into the new plan year and you'll continue to use your current Member ID card.

However, if after reading through your Open Enrollment material you'd like additional support, we will be happy to help:

- For Open Enrollment inquiries, contact Pacifica locally at: **670-234-6267** Monday — Friday, 8 AM-5 PM
- For non-OE related inquiries, contact our Member Service Center 24/7 at: **800-231-7729**

Websites to help you choose a plan:

- Aetna International: www.AetnaInternational.com/cnmi-ghli
- CNMI Dept of Finance: www.dof.gov.mp
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.: www.pacificains.com/ghlit

Upon completing an Enrollment/Change of Status Form, deliver your Form and any required documentation:

- Active employees: to your respective Agency/Department of Human Resources
- Retirees and surviving spouses: to Pacifica located in the Joeten Shopping Center, Insatto St., Susupe

Open enrollment runs Monday, November 16 — Friday, December 18.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Heed CDC on holidays. Not the radiologist

In the three months since President Donald Trump made Dr. Scott Atlas—a radiologist, not an epidemiologist or specialist in infectious diseases—his favorite source of ideas on how to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, the United States has been racked with a record-setting third surge of virus cases, with record daily deaths expected in coming days. The president, his wife and youngest son have all been infected, as well as his eldest son, who lives elsewhere. The president had to be hospitalized. And White House gatherings became “superspreader” events. It is hardly a coincidence the pandemic got worse after Atlas captured Trump’s ear.

Atlas, a senior fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution, came to Trump’s attention in Fox News appearances when he said what Trump wanted to hear—questioning the importance of wearing masks, flatly opposing state lockdowns and suggesting that the threat posed by COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, was limited to the elderly, the sick and the immuno-compromised.

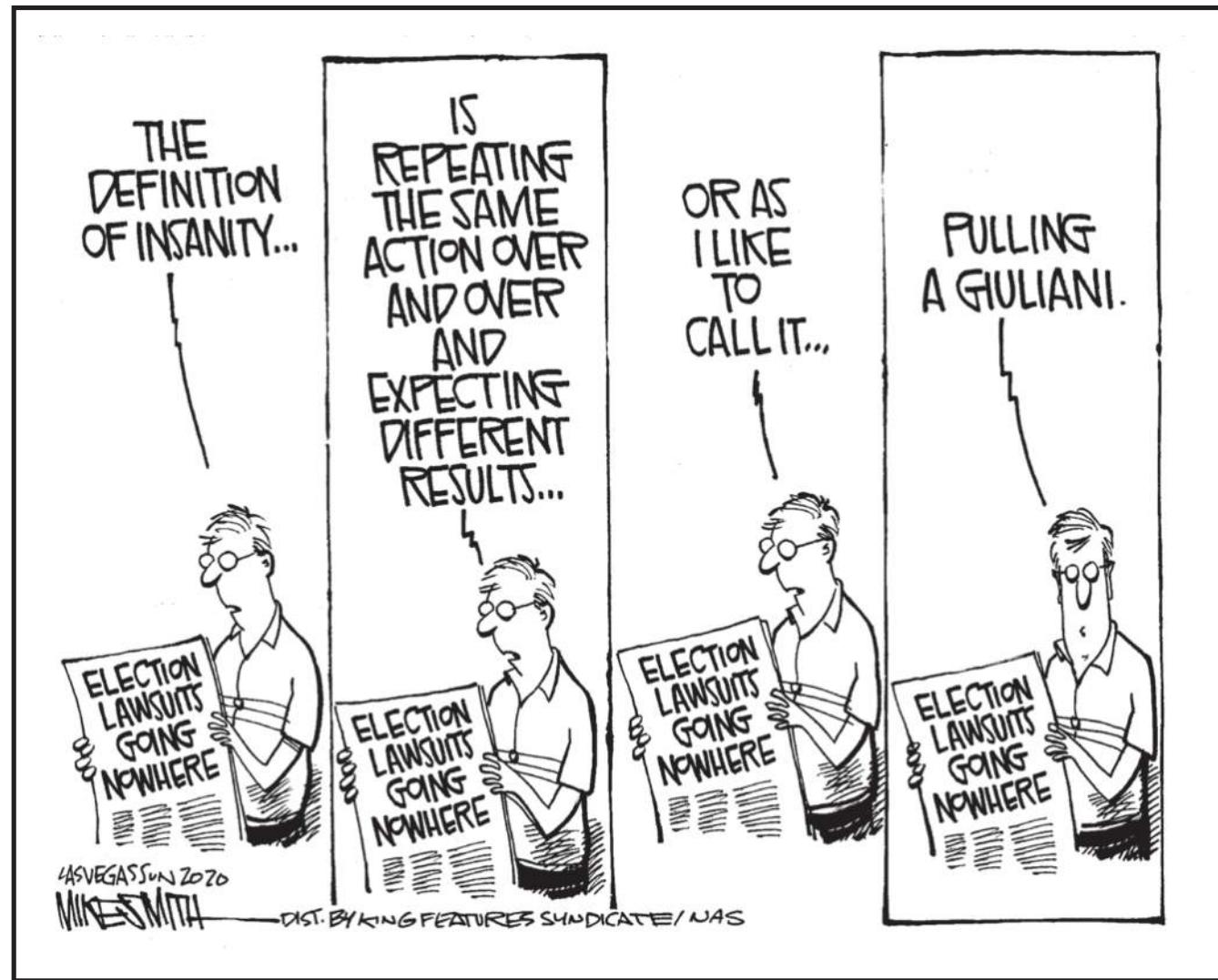
With the country at a crossroads and pandemic deaths soaring past 250,000, Atlas may be at his most dangerous: Now he’s taking on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On Nov. 16, he urged Americans to carry on with their Thanksgiving gatherings with this blithely fatalistic remark on Fox News: “For many people, this is their final Thanksgiving, believe it or not. What are we doing here (by calling on people to stay home)?”

This prompted a scathing response from former CDC Director Tom Frieden, one of many health officials urging quiet holidays this year. “It may well be the last Thanksgiving for many of our loved ones if we follow this bad advice,” he tweeted about Atlas. “We can PREVENT deaths from COVID. Unless we change our plans, family celebrations over Thanksgiving could mean funerals by New Year’s.”

CDC’s Dr. Erin Sauber-Schatz, citing the million-plus new cases the U.S. is seeing a week, said it remained profoundly risky to spend significant time indoors with even a handful of visiting family members. “The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is at home with the people in your household,” she said. The federal government’s two most prominent pandemic fighters—Drs. Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx—not only agree, NBC News reported that they had chosen to shun Atlas because nothing was to be gained by working with a nonexpert with no relevant background who challenges public health orthodoxy at every turn.

For one example of the danger posed by Atlas to Americans, Trump has for months emphasized the Atlas theme that the declining rate of COVID-19 deaths shows how good the administration’s pandemic response has been. Instead, the rate of deaths has gone down as doctors and researchers have figured out ways to slow COVID-19’s progression and keep patients off ventilators.

See CDC on Next Page



Thanksgiving disrupted

The country’s dilemma about what to do about Thanksgiving this year is reflected back to me hour after hour in my work as a family and couples therapist.

My office is like the Butterball hotline but with the focus on get-together angst during the pandemic rather than turkey roasting. If you hacked into my Zoom sessions, this is a representative sampling of what you’d hear:

“What if this is the last Thanksgiving with my 92-year-old mother and she could have joined us, but we played it safe?”

“How should I tell my kids they can’t come to Thanksgiving? What if this becomes a permanent disruption and they never come back?”

“What if I invite my hardy family members to an outdoor Thanksgiving but some other relatives find out and are insulted?”

Since I’ve struggled to figure out my own Thanksgiving plans, I don’t presume to have the answers for my patients. Instead, I commiserate with them about everything we’ve already missed this year—the vacations postponed, and the special occasions and holidays we’ve had to celebrate apart because of COVID-19.

A wistfulness shows up in their wish to embrace Thanksgiving, which has all the ingredients of a nourishing time—cooking together, lolling around the table with a surfeit of high-caloric food, the leisure to tell and retell family stories and the healing laughter that follows. Now more than ever we could benefit from reconnecting with our loved ones and welcoming everyone home.

Thanksgiving, the mother of all family dinners, is a potent ritual. With rich aromas and special foods, it connects us to our childhoods and to previous generations, often through the passing down of family recipes. Thanksgiving makes us feel that we’re part of something bigger than ourselves, when we see our extended family and remember our past gatherings.

But any vibrant ritual also has to be able to adapt and flex to accommodate change. We already do this every Thanksgiving to some extent, since a year’s passing inevitably brings new developments—a daughter will be spending the holiday with her partner’s family, a spouse serving in the military is stationed overseas, a grandparent has died and left an empty seat.

It is the push and pull of continuity on the one hand and change on the other that gives Thanksgiving its texture and vitality. But this year, the change is being forced upon us since we’ve been advised to have small gatherings, if we gather at all.

So maybe this is the year you hold a virtual cooking class to make sure those near and dear know how to properly prepare a

By ANNE K. FISHEL
Los Angeles Times

Anne K. Fishel is an associate clinical professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School, co-founder of the Family Dinner Project and director of the family and couples therapy program at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is the author of *Home for Dinner*.



turkey. It could be a perfect opportunity to record family tales via Zoom, without signaling to your relatives that you want to preserve their stories before they die.

This year I’m especially grateful to be part of the Family Dinner Project, a nonprofit initiative based at Massachusetts General Hospital that offers families ways to increase the frequency and quality of their shared mealtimes. I’ve guided many of my patients to our Thanksgiving Virtual Care Package, which offers loads of downloadable games and activities for families who will be celebrating apart this year.

Calling the whole dinner off is another option. Think of it as a sabbatical year where you step away from the holiday to gain perspective. Or think of the sabbatical in terms of its biblical roots, which refer to taking a year off from sowing the field. Leaving the holiday fallow may mean that next year it emerges more robustly or in a different form—the dinner could be rotated, like crops, among hosts in future years.

One family that shared their Thanksgiving story with the Family Dinner Project is stepping away from their traditional Thanksgiving and choosing to celebrate with a day of favorites—they’ll be ordering Peking duck, making ice cream sundaes and baking a family recipe of eggnog cake that they’ll share with neighbors.

Thanksgiving is a feast, but this year I’m thinking of how I can celebrate this favorite holiday with less abundance. I’m planning a quick, chilly, outdoor New England picnic with one son and his partner while Zooming with many of the other usual guests. We’ll play a round of the guessing game Top Four while warmed by two fire pits. Maybe I’ll get some baking tips during a virtual cooking session with my other son and his wife.

As the mother of my oldest childhood friend used to say, “Sometimes, enough is as good as a feast.” What will be your “enough” this year?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Social media: Everyone's sharing, no one is taking responsibility

Political correctness is not for liberals only.

That immortal truth returned to center stage Wednesday as Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai testified before the Senate Commerce Committee. The conflict between the world views of Big Tech and Congress was well illustrated by a vigorous exchange between Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Twitter's Dorsey, whose social media platform has in many ways defined the presidency of Donald Trump.

"Is Twitter a publisher?" asked Cruz, sounding like he was in full future-Republican-presidential-candidate mode.

"No, we are not," said Dorsey, whose long pandemic beard made him look like a tryout for "Duck Dynasty." "We distribute information."

"So, what is a publisher?" Cruz pressed on.

"An entity that is publishing under editorial guidelines and decision."

In other words, those who see Twitter as a provider of editorial content to consumers may see it as a publisher. But to Twitter, social networks merely provide a platform through which content creators can reach their audiences.

That conflict lies at the heart of both parties' interest in Wednesday's hearings: Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, enacted in 1996 when search engines and social networks were very young.

As Cruz pointed out, that act defines an information content provider as any person or entity that is "responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the internet or any other interactive computer service."

In writing the law, Congress wisely decided to intrude as little as possible on the new blooming world of internet communication and commerce and revisit the issue later. So far, Section 230

has granted more immunity protection to social media companies than to any other medium.

That's an excellent reason for the Big Tech giants to show up when they're summoned to Capitol Hill. That's OK. Companies with so much impact need to be held accountable.

But unfortunately in this hearing, like earlier ones, the galaxy of serious questions being raised in society about the tech industries' vast power and influence kept getting elbowed aside by allegations of liberal bias and censorship of conservative views.

Four years ago, it was Democrats who came in to Big Tech hearings fired up by Hillary Clinton's hacked emails and intrusions by Russian trolls of her election campaign. This time Republicans were triggered by Facebook and Twitter interfering with tweets that spread the New York Post's questionable Hunter Biden scoop in October.

Cruz and other conservatives were furious that the story about a cache of documents allegedly found on a laptop belonging to candidate Joe Biden's son Hunter was not picked up by mainstream media outside of Fox News and other conservative outlets.

But journalistically, the story raised more questions than it answered with its speculations about a possible contact between foreign influences and Joe Biden himself.

The story was so questionable, the rival New York Times reported, that the article's writers asked to have their names removed from the byline.

But in today's world of dueling political realities, helped along by new media and "alternative facts," stories take on a life of their own in alternative communities.

Judging by the polls, there's little evidence that the Biden fuss had a measurable impact on public opinion amid the pandemic, the national racial reckoning and other timely issues.

By CLARENCE PAGE

Chicago Tribune



Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.

And the social networks have been making various attempts at reform, including tagging some of Trump's tweets with fact-checking tags—a move that infuriates him.

The president would rather limit us to his alternative facts. So would every politician, I'm sure. But that's why we Americans revere press freedom, even as each political side complains about the content provided by the other.

Of course, Cruz and other partisans complain that Republicans and conservatives can't get an even break. But so do liberals and Democrats.

Angelo Carusone, president and CEO of the liberal Media Matters for America, argues that conservative content has been not only plentiful but more often engaged by users, according to his organization's studies.

I'm not surprised. Conservative movement fervor thrives on the internet, making celebrities out of the most outraged voices on both political sides—and tribes.

But the issues of fact-checking, balance and clearing out conspiracy theories ultimately have to rest with the consumer. Government oversight is still important, but for news consumers, "Buyer beware" is still the most valuable motto to remember.

Rediscovering America: A Thanksgiving quiz

Because of the pandemic, this Thanksgiving will be very different than most, but it will still include many familial and national traditions.

The quiz below, from the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University, provides an opportunity for you to test your knowledge of the Thanksgiving holiday in American history and culture.

1. What was the primary food that the Wampanoag, the Native American tribe that participated in the first Thanksgiving, contributed to the feast?

- A. Turkey
- B. Ham
- C. Venison
- D. Lobster

2. Writer and editor Sarah Josepha Hale, author of the poem

CDC

From Page 8

But the disease's health consequences remain devastating. The Mayo Clinic warns that a significant number of people who had a brush with COVID-19 suffer symptoms for months after that lead to long-term health problems with the lung, heart and brain—a point Trump and Atlas never acknowledge. Think of them and their families.

No matter how eager we all are for traditional holiday experiences built around our extended families, please think twice. If you must gather, heed the CDC and have celebrations outdoors and practice social distancing. Don't heed the radiologist who may know a lot about CT scans and MRIs but whose prominence in the pandemic response is solely because he reinforces President Trump's denial of the seriousness of the worst U.S. public health crisis in more than a century. Let's all be thankful for promising vaccines, hope for their quick and safe arrival, and pray that Jan. 20 arrives and a sense of urgency is restored at the White House without tens of thousands more Americans dead. The need to approach the coming holidays with a sense of shared sacrifice is clear. We and our nation must rise to the occasion.

"Mary Had a Little Lamb," also is known as the "godmother of Thanksgiving" for urging which president to have "our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival"?

- A. James Buchanan
- B. Ulysses S. Grant
- C. Andrew Johnson
- D. Abraham Lincoln

3. In what year was the law passed making the fourth Thursday of November the fixed date for Thanksgiving?

- A. 1912
- B. 1935
- C. 1941
- D. 1991

4. Which president said that "Thanksgiving reminds us that no matter our differences, we are still one people, part of something bigger than ourselves ... we are always, simply, Americans"?

- A. John F. Kennedy
- B. Barack Obama
- C. Ronald Reagan
- D. Franklin Roosevelt

5. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will exclude a live audience this year, but will still be broadcast on television. In what years was the parade officially canceled since first being held in 1924?

- A. 1929 to 1931
- B. 1942 to 1944
- C. 1951 to 1953
- D. 1960 to 1962

6. Because of a mix-up that resulted in a major surplus of turkey one year, which company packaged turkey, stuffing, peas and sweet potatoes in aluminum trays, creating the first TV dinners?

- A. Swanson
- B. Morton's
- C. Tyson
- D. Stouffer's

By PATRICK MALONEY

InsideSources.com



Patrick Maloney is deputy director of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

7. Which of America's Founding Fathers wanted the turkey, rather than the eagle, to be America's national bird?

- A. John Adams
- B. Alexander Hamilton
- C. Patrick Henry
- D. Benjamin Franklin

8. Which Ivy League college teams faced off in the first Thanksgiving football game in the 1870s?

- A. Princeton vs. Yale
- B. Harvard vs. Princeton
- C. Columbia vs. Dartmouth
- D. Cornell vs. Yale

9. The tradition of handing out Thanksgiving themed awards to NFL players began in 1989. What was the initial award called and who received it?

- A. Turkey Leg to former Philadelphia Eagle Reggie White
- B. Galloping Gobbler to former Dallas Cowboy Tony Romo
- C. Turkey Leg to former San Francisco 49er Joe Montana
- D. Galloping Gobbler to former Green Bay Packer Brett Favre

10. In addition to the United States, several other countries celebrate a Thanksgiving holiday. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. Canada
- B. Brazil
- C. Sweden
- D. Liberia

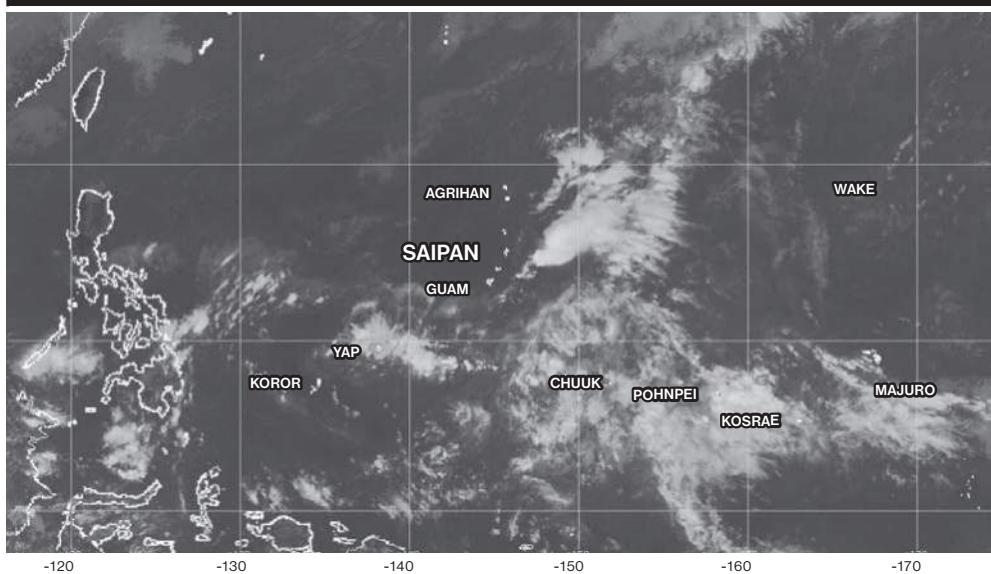
ANSWERS: 1-C, 2-D, 3-C, 4-B, 5-B, 6-A, 7-D, 8-A, 9-A, 10-C

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts up to 25 mph near thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°
78°	89°	78°	88°	77°
88°	88°	77°	88°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:13 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas

to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>.
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:29 AM	1:21 PM
Tuesday	-	1:18 AM	1:58 PM
Wednesday	-	2:05 AM	2:33 PM
Thursday	-	2:51 AM	3:08 PM
Friday	-	3:37 AM	3:43 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	41° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	39° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°
Miami	Showers	80° / 72°
New York	Cloudy	50° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 41°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°
Busan	Sunny	46° / 32°
Rome	Showers	55° / 37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	37° / 21°
Tokyo	Cloudy	46° / 37°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	51° / 45°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:02 AM	LOW TIDE	1.16
8:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.12
3:42 PM	LOW TIDE	1.66
10:16 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.77

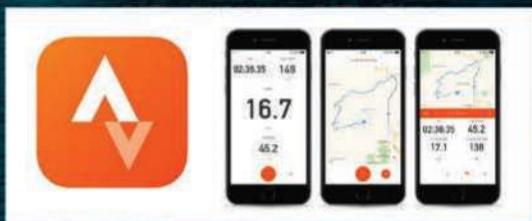
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 6:55am 7:35am 1, 4, 6				UA174 5:10am 5:51am 1, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 6:55am 9:50pm 1 via Guam				UA184/174 10:40pm 5:51am+1 3, 5 via Guam			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183 8:00pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5				UA184 10:40pm 4:30am+1 1, 3, 5			
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020			
SAIPAN TO ROTA				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302</							

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COMPETITIVE FINISHERS!****FROM NOV 30
THROUGH
DEC 20****5K Non-Competitive
10K Competitive / Non-Competitive****\$15
COMPETITIVE****\$10
NON-COMPETITIVE****COMPETITIVE (Male and Female Categories)**

Must run 10K

Must submit through Strava



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May run 5K or 10K

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Nation

Biden could announce Cabinet picks as soon as next week

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Joe Biden is moving quickly to fill out his administration and could name top leaders for his Cabinet as early as next week.

Biden told reporters on Thursday that he's already decided on who will lead the Treasury Department. That pick, along with his nominee for secretary of state, may be announced before Thanksgiving, according to people close to the transition who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The Cabinet announcements could be released in tranches, with groups of nominees focused on a specific top area, like the economy, national security or public health, being announced at once.

Such a move is intended to deliver the message that Biden is intent on preparing for the presidency even as President Donald Trump refuses to concede and attempts to subvert the election results in key states. Trump's roadblocks have undermined core democratic principles such as the peaceful transfer of power and are especially problematic

because Biden will take office in January amid the worst public health crisis in more than a century.

"It's a huge impact. And each day it gets worse, meaning a week ago, it wasn't that big of a deal. This week, it's starting to get to be a bigger deal. Next week, it'll be bigger," said David Marchick,

director of the Center for Presidential Transition at the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service. "Every new day that's lost has a larger impact than the day before."

Still, Biden's transition work is progressing, with the president-elect holding frequent virtual meetings from his home in Wilmington,

Delaware, and a music venue downtown. At this point, Biden is deeply involved in choosing his Cabinet, a process described by one person as similar to fitting puzzle pieces together.

In putting together the 15-person team, Biden is facing demands from multiple, competing interests, as well as

the political realities of navigating a closely divided Senate.

He'll have to find the right mix of nominees to appease progressives demanding evidence he's committed to major reforms; fulfill his promise to build the most diverse government in modern history; and pass through a more difficult than expected nomination pro-

cess with a slim margin of control for either party, depending on the outcome of two Georgia Senate runoffs in January.

Those considerations appear to be already informing Biden's calculus for secretary of state.

Two finalists to be America's top diplomat include Antony Blinken, a former deputy national security adviser and deputy secretary of state, and Chris Coons, who holds Biden's former Senate seat from Delaware and sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Blinken and Coons are close to Biden, and both have privately and, in some cases, publicly, expressed interest in the job. But with the balance of power in the Senate depending on two runoffs in Georgia, Blinken may have the upper hand, according to people close to the transition. The thinking, these people said, is that even if Coons is tapped for the post and replaced with a Democrat by Delaware's Democratic governor, the loss of his influence in the Senate may outweigh his value as secretary of state.

FDA allows emergency use of antibody drug Trump received

U.S. health officials Saturday agreed to allow emergency use of a second antibody drug to help the immune system fight COVID-19, an experimental medicine that President Donald Trump was given when he was sickened last month.

The Food and Drug Administration authorized use of the Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. drug to try to prevent hospitalization and worsening disease from developing in patients with mild-to-moderate symptoms.

The drug is given as a one-time treatment through an IV. The FDA allowed its use in adults and children 12 and over who weigh at least 88

pounds (40 kilograms) and who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because of age or certain other medical conditions.

Emergency authorization allows use of the drug to start while studies are continuing to establish safety and effectiveness. Early results suggest the drug may reduce COVID-19-related hospitalization or emergency room visits in patients at high risk for disease progression, the FDA said.

Regeneron said that initial doses will be made available to roughly 300,000 patients through a federal government allocation program. Patients will not be charged for the

drug but may have to pay part of the cost of giving the IV.

Initial supplies will likely be vastly outstripped by demand as the U.S. has surged past 10 million reported cases, with the country facing what health experts say will be a dark winter due to uncontrolled spread of the virus.

Antibodies are proteins the body makes to target and help eliminate viruses, but it can take weeks for the best ones to form after an infection occurs. The drugs are concentrated versions of ones that proved best able to do this in lab and animal tests, and in theory help the body start to fight the virus right away.

The Regeneron drug is a combo of two antibodies to enhance the chances it will prove effective. Earlier this month, the FDA gave emergency authorization to a single-antibody drug from Eli Lilly that also is still being studied.

There's no way to know whether the Regeneron drug helped Trump recover; he received a host of treatments and most COVID-19 patients recover on their own.

FDA regulators authorized the Regeneron drug using their emergency powers to quickly speed the availability of experimental drugs and other medical products during public health crises.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-001

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE- 2 PROJECT REPLACEMENT OF FLOW METER AND PRESSURE RELEASE VALVE (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general removal and installation of gate valve assembly, PRV, flow meter, strainer, pressure gauge and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-21-001, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project Replacement of Flow Meter and Pressure Release Valve**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 7, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuazon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Technician Senior via email - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 006

Opening Date: November 13, 2020 • Closing Date: November 27, 2020

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

HR Generalist/Training Coordinator
COA/Human Resources
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$37,756.00 - \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt
2 Year Contract
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assess training needs through surveys, interviews with employees, focus groups, or consultation with managers, instructors, or customer representatives.
- Research curriculum actively and remain up-to-date on developments within the industry and competitors.
- Design, plan, organize, or direct orientation and training programs for employees or customers.
- Offer specific training programs to help workers maintain or improve job skills.
- Present information using a variety of instructional techniques or formats, such as role playing, simulations, team exercises, group discussions, videos, or lectures.
- Obtain, organize, or develop training procedure Manuals, guides, or course materials, such as handouts or visual materials.
- Works in coordination with the Grants Administrator in locating and procuring grant funding for employee development.
- Reviews, tracks and/or performs audits of program data, financial records, activity records, testing data, and/or other types of functional documentation; identifies issues; prepares summaries and notifies appropriate resources of results; adheres to and provides required regulatory reporting and documentation.
- Receives, reviews and verifies forms and documents; enters, updates and maintains information systems.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's degree in Business, Public Relations, Human Resources or directly related field and 4 years of general professional human resource-related experience in Employee Development and Trainings; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Education and training; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Instructing; Learning strategies; Active Learning; Speaking; Monitoring; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

Physical Demands:

- Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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World

Iran closes businesses, curtails travel amid virus surge

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Saturday shuttered businesses and curtailed travel between its major cities, including the capital of Tehran, as it grapples with the worst outbreak of the coronavirus in the Mideast region.

Top Iranian officials initially downplayed the risks posed by the virus outbreak, before recently urging the public to follow measures like wearing masks and avoiding unessential travel.

Iran has recorded daily death tolls of above 430 over the past five days. The Iranian Health Ministry said on Saturday that the total number of

Spike in cases delays Singapore-HK travel bubble

HONG KONG (AP)—Singapore and Hong Kong on Saturday postponed the start of an air travel bubble meant to boost tourism for both cities, citing a spike in infections in the Chinese territory as a “sober reminder” of risks to public health.

The travel bubble, originally slated to begin Sunday, will be delayed by at least two weeks, Hong Kong’s minister of commerce and economic development, Edward Yau, said at a news conference.

The arrangement is meant to allow travelers between the two cities to enter without quarantine as long as they complete coronavirus tests before and after arriving at their destinations, and fly on designated flights.

Hong Kong reported 43 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, including 13 untraceable local infections.

“For any scheme to be successful, they must fulfill the condition of securing public health, and also make sure that both sides would be comfortable and feel safe about the scheme,” Yau said. “In light of the situation in Hong Kong, I think it’s the responsible way to put this back for a while, and then sort of relaunch it at a suitable juncture.”

Under the initial agreement, the travel bubble was to be suspended if the number of untraceable local infections in either Singapore or Hong Kong exceeded five on a seven-day moving average. The current average in Hong Kong is nearly four, prompting Yau and Singapore’s transport minister, Ong Ye Kung, to postpone the inaugural flight.

On Friday, Hong Kong’s top health official said that the city had “probably entered” a new wave of cases. Recent clusters have spanned taxi drivers, a dance studio and hotels.

confirmed cases has risen to above 840,000.

The new lockdown measures, which include shuttering most businesses, shops, malls, and restaurants, include Iran’s largest cities of Mashhad, Isfahan, and Shiraz. Iranian authorities have designated the nearly 160 towns and cities affected as hot spots because these urban centers have the highest daily per capita positive coronavirus test results.

On Saturday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a televised speech urged people to follow the measures to help “lessen the death toll.” He added that the government

Hong Kong has confirmed a total of 5,561 cases, including 108 deaths. Singapore has reported 58,148 cases, but only 28 fatalities.

Prior to the postponement, Singapore said Saturday morning that travelers arriving from Hong Kong via the bubble would be required to take a coronavirus test on arrival. Originally, only people landing in Hong Kong were to be required to be tested.

Ong said in a Facebook post that the postponement is a “sober reminder that the COVID-19 virus is still with us.”

“I can fully understand the disappointment and frustration of travellers who have planned their trips. But we think it is better to defer from a public health standpoint,” he wrote.

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“For any scheme to be successful, they must fulfill the condition of securing public health, and also make sure that both sides would be comfortable and feel safe about the scheme,” Yau said. “In light of the situation in Hong Kong, I think it’s the responsible way to put this back for a while, and then sort of relaunch it at a suitable juncture.”

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plans to supply cash subsidies to Iran’s 30 million poorest people for four months to help them to manage the economic fallout from the new outbreak.

The latest round of restrictions to stem the outbreak came as a spat among top Iranian health officials led to the resignation of at least two officials.

Iranian newspapers said Saturday that the deputy health

minister in charge of research, Reza Malekzadeh, resigned from his post in reaction to recent remarks by the Minister of Health Saeed Namaki, who said government-led research projects were not successfully addressing the current needs of the ministry.

In reply, Malekzadeh in his resignation letter criticized government’s mismanage-

ment of the virus outbreak as leading to a “large number of human deaths.”

Iranian news websites also said that Ali Nobakht, an advisor to the health minister, resigned over similar reasons, without providing further details.

In Tehran, the head of the city’s chamber of commerce, Qassem Nodeh, said that the restrictions will lead to the

closure of 70% of business in the capital and its surrounding areas.

Manoochehr Nassiri, who runs a lighting shop in Tehran’s Grand Bazaar, complained about the closures.

“We shop owners don’t know what to do, considering the economic situation of the country,” he said standing outside his shuttered store.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/FINANCE-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 22, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

“SINGLE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2019, 2020 & 2021”

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*/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

*/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/PH-NCDB-001**

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“NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BUREAU (NCDB) WEBSITE”

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*/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

*/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY*

**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950**

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

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RFP21-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 16, 2020 • TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

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*/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

*/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-DRP-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

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*/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

*/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY*

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2021-003

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: December 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**Lease of Office Space for the
Community Development Block Grant
Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program**

The Request for Proposal and Scope of Work will be available on November 20, 2020 at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the “Procurement Tab”.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 10:00 AM local time on November 25, 2020.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAIC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

*/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)*

*/s/
Frank Lee Borja
Acting Chairman
NMHC Board of Directors*

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-BECQ/DEQ-011**

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 09, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**“SOIL SPECIALIST FOR THE 2021 NATIONAL
WETLAND CONDITION ASSESSMENT FOR THE
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY,
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. LARRY MAURIN AT larrymaurin@becq.gov.mp, NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS NOVEMBER 25, 2020. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

*/s/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ*

*/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S*

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
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Tan Siu Lin
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DREAMSTIME/TNS
ing family members from out of town requires weighing the risk versus benefit for everyone involved.

"The moment you go into an airport, you're seeing other people," says Bilal. "Driving is safer, but the important thing to look at is where everyone is coming from."

Experts encourage keeping celebrations local, particularly if case numbers are spiking in areas where out-of-towners live, or if high-risk guests are attending. To gather everyone together, host a Houseparty or other virtual meetup during the celebration.

BE EXTRA MINDFUL WHEN INVITING OLDER RELATIVES.

The risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, which makes decisions surrounding older relatives challenging.

"Spending time with family is often so important for the grandparents," says Palumbo. "People need to decide what they're comfortable with, but be mindful of what rates in the community look like, and be even more careful about isolating beforehand."

Have honest conversations up front, so everyone understands each other's risk factors and comfort level. And you may want to consider playing it extra safe. Would the family be OK with shortening the hangout and sending everyone home with to-go meals so that masks don't need to be removed?

MINIMIZE OR ELIMINATE ALCOHOL.

It may be family tradition to share a few bottles of wine around the table. But the CDC advises against that this year, declaring alcohol a high-risk activity because of how it clouds our judgment.

"People become very huggy when they're drunk," says Bilal. "If you're going to have alcohol, it's very important to talk about these behaviors in advance so that everyone has it in their mind to try to avoid them. When you're in the moment, after drinking a beer, you want to have a plan."

BE PREPARED TO CANCEL.

Bad weather? A local spike in COVID-19 cases? In either scenario, experts advise postponing. Although there isn't one magic number, 5% is the general benchmark for positive community test rates that epidemiologists consider concerning.

"There will be more Thanksgivings," says Bilal. "These are some of the most important people in your life, and you don't want this holiday to be the one you remember of someone ending up in the hospital for weeks."

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN JUST BECAUSE IT'S FAMILY.

Anytime you leave the house, there's a level of risk involved right now. It's also impossible to know exactly what everyone is doing 24/7. And that means you need to be extra cautious with anyone who's living outside of your household.

"This virus knows no trust. Trust doesn't really protect you," says Bilal. "You need to be as careful with your family as you would with anyone else."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers hosting people for a small outdoor dinner as moderately risky, as compared to low-risk activities like a virtual Thanksgiving or a dinner with only people who live in your household.

How to host a safe outdoor Thanksgiving (and decide if you should)

By GRACE DICKINSON
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Thanksgiving is usually a time we cozy up around the dinner table and share food and stories with those we love. But given the pandemic, experts are recommending a change in holiday plans this year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers hosting people for a small outdoor dinner as moderately risky, as compared to low-risk activities like a virtual Thanksgiving or a dinner with only people who live in your household. And with rising coronavirus rates, Philadelphia Health Commissioner Thomas Farley advises families forego holiday gatherings altogether.

But if you do plan to do something anyway, how should you think about the risk?

"This is a personal decision, and there are risk-versus-benefit calculations that people have to make," says Usama Bilal, epidemiologist and assistant professor at Drexel University. "I would strongly advise against any sort of indoor gathering, but I wouldn't necessarily advise against an outdoor one as long as you take the usual precautions—maintaining distance, wearing masks, and limiting the number of people."

There are other tactics you can take, too, to make open-air festivities safer. But remember, masking up and

social distancing generally remain your best defenses.

Here's how experts say to approach an outdoor Thanksgiving celebration.

MATCH YOUR GUEST COUNT WITH THE SIZE OF YOUR YARD.

The more people, the more risk you invite to the party. But just how small should you keep the guest list? The answer may depend on the size of your yard.

"Make sure the different households can be kept six feet apart," says Bilal.

Map out table and chair placements in advance, including a spacious area for the serving table.

SET GROUND RULES BEFORE THANKSGIVING.

Want to avoid Uncle Joe going in for that awkward welcome hug? Set some rules upfront to help minimize risky moments.

Beyond greeting etiquette, address mask usage, and also the level of precaution that's feasible for everyone in the weeks leading up. Is self-quarantine an option? Can you limit unnecessary contact with strangers for 14 days? Does this make socially distanced socializing off-limits? What about grocery store trips? Let this be an open dialogue that weighs everyone's comfort levels surrounding risk. And include concrete rules

on what to do if someone wakes up Thanksgiving morning feeling sick.

"Everyone should feel comfortable cancelling right now," says Aimee Palumbo, epidemiologist and assistant professor at Temple University.

If you prefer to stay home all together, be honest with your family and let them know early on. Your explanation doesn't need to be lengthy. A simple "I really wish I could be there but don't feel comfortable joining this year" is enough and will help prevent opening up the topic for debate.

PLAN MEALTIME FOR THE LUNCH HOUR.

It's not uncommon for late November temperatures to drop into the 40s. Fire up the grill (grilled turkey anyone?), and make the best of it by gathering during the warmest part of the day. Everyone should come prepared to hang outside, which may mean bringing a few extra layers and a blanket.

If you choose to create a warmer space with heaters and a tent, make sure that at least two tent sides remain open.

"You don't want to recreate an indoor space outdoors," says Palumbo.

PROVIDE EXTRA SERVING UTENSILS. BUT NO NEED TO USE DISPOSABLE DISHWARE.

Assign each household their own set of serving utensils.

"Act like if you go to a restaurant—you don't want to share the salt shaker or anything from table to table," says Bilal.

While surface transmission is low, if someone coughs into their hand, and then mindlessly touches a shared object, germs could spread between households.

"The more we minimize risk, the better," says Bilal.

But that doesn't mean you need to use plastic spoons and forks. As long as all dishes are washed beforehand, you're safe to skip the disposables and the excess trash they create.

MASK UP UNLESS EATING, AND STAY OUTSIDE UNLESS USING THE BATHROOM.

Your best defense when venturing inside to the bathroom is wearing a mask and thoroughly washing your hands. But experts advise keeping your mask on outdoors, too, except when eating or drinking.

"When you take it on and off, be mindful of touching it. Ideally you need to wash your hands before and after," says Bilal.

LET OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILY MEMBERS SKIP THE TRAVEL THIS YEAR.

Any kind of travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19, according to the CDC. Invit-

Life & Style

Wrongful death lawsuit filed over Naya Rivera's drowning

VENTURA, Calif. (AP)—A wrongful death lawsuit has been filed over the drowning of "Glee" actor Naya Rivera, who died this summer while boating with her 4-year-old son on a California lake.

The suit, filed Tuesday, blames Ventura County and managers of Lake Piru for her accidental death on July 8 at the lake northwest of Los Angeles. It was filed on behalf of her son, Josey Hollis Dorsey, by Ryan Dorsey—Rivera's

ex-husband and the boy's father and guardian—and also on behalf of her estate.

Rivera, 33, had rented a pontoon boat on the lake. Her son was found sleeping and alone on the drifting boat later that afternoon.

Rivera's body was found floating in a 30-foot-deep area of the lake five days later. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office said Rivera's body was most likely trapped in thick vegetation underwater for

several days before floating to the top.

An autopsy report said Rivera was a good swimmer and listed her death as an accident.

But the lawsuit said negligence was involved. It said the pontoon boat lacked a safely accessible ladder, radio, rope, anchor or other equipment to keep swimmers from being separated from the boat.

It also didn't have a life preserver or other flotation or

lifesaving devices, according to the suit.

The man who rented Rivera the boat has said she declined a life vest, but he put one aboard anyway.

The suit also said there weren't any signs in the area warning "of the lake's strong currents, low visibility, high winds" and other dangers even though at least 26 people have drowned there since the lake opened in 1959.

"While Naya and Josey

were swimming, the boat started to be carried away—likely by the current and wind, which gusted up to 21 mph that afternoon," according to the lawsuit.

Inaccurate reports had said that Rivera boosted the boy back aboard the boat but he managed to get aboard by himself, according to the suit.

The boy heard Rivera cry for help as she struggled to get back to the boat before she dis-

appeared, the suit said.

Rivera may not have known that her son had made it to the boat "but she surely knew that she was dying and would not make it back to her son," the suit contends.

A call seeking comment from Ventura County wasn't immediately returned Wednesday night. A county spokesperson declined to comment to Fox News, saying the county hadn't been served with the lawsuit.

Ladies' night at Latin Grammys: Lafourcade, Rosalía win big

NEW YORK (AP)—A year after Rosalía made history by becoming the first solo female performer in 13 years to win the top prize at the Latin Grammys, Natalia Lafourcade followed in her footsteps with a big win at the 2020 show.

The Mexican singer won album of the year—a category dominated by male acts—on Thursday night with "Un Canto Por México, Vol. 1." Lafourcade won three awards at the show, tying Rosalía and Carlos Vives for most wins.

Lafourcade didn't attend the Latin Grammys, which aired live on Univision and featured a number of performances, most of them pre-taped due to the coronavirus pandemic. The show did not have a live audience or a red carpet, and some of the performances featured band members and dancers sporting masks as they entertained onstage.

Lafourcade's wins included best alternative song for "En Cantos" and best regional

song for "Mi Religión." Rosalía won her awards during the pre-telecast, including best urban song and best urban fusion performance for the hit "Yo X Ti, Tu X Mi," sharing both wins with her song's co-star, Ozuna. She also won best

short form music video for "TKN," which features Travis Scott and helped the rapper win a Latin Grammy before winning a traditional Grammy.

Residente—the most decorated act in the history of the Latin Grammys—continued

his winning streak by taking home song of the year for "Rene" and best rap/hip-hop song for "Antes Que El Mundo Se Acabe." Fito Páez was also a double winner Thursday.

But the acts poised to make



Karol G performs for the 21st Latin Grammy Awards, airing on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, at American Airlines Arena in Miami.

AP

history after receiving 13 and nine nominations each—J Balvin and Bad Bunny—both walked away with just one win. Bad Bunny won best reggaeton performance for "Yo Perreo Sola" and Balvin picked up best urban music album for "Colores."

Despite his 13 nominations, Balvin only had a chance of winning eight honors since he competed against himself in multiple categories. Bad Bunny had a similar issue at the show.

Balvin was a winner onstage, though.

Before his performance, footage of current events such as the Black Lives Matters protests—including an image of George Floyd—and more appeared onscreen. Balvin began performing his song "Rojo" ("Red") under two large praying hands in a white suit, ending the song with fake blood running down his hands and clothes.

Pitbull also moved the needle with his performance, where he was joined by frontline workers onstage—some playing guitar, some singing

background, one on drums. Together, they performed "I Believe That We Will Win" (World Anthem), an upbeat song Pitbull released earlier this year during the pandemic to inspire others.

"They dreamed of being rock stars playing full stadiums, they represent a large group of individuals all around the world who day after day sacrifice their lives for a safer world," Pitbull said. "We gonna live it tonight."

"WE WILL WIN" appeared onscreen behind the performers at the end of the song as Pitbull saluted the musicians.

Karol G—who was nominated for four awards but walked away empty handed—performed alongside classical musicians to give a new edge to her global hit "Tusa," which features Nicki Minaj rapping in Spanish and English. Karol G shout-outed the rapper during the performance.

Karol G's fiance, Puerto Rican rapper-singer Anuel AA, had seven nominations but didn't win a single award. He lost best new artist to Colombian singer Mike Bahía.

Twins are divided over mom's treatment for terminal cancer

DEAR ABBY: My 63-year-old mother has recently been diagnosed with stage-4 metastatic lung cancer. Even prior to her diagnosis she was a negative and depressed person. She has been a smoker, drinker and backseat driver for almost 50 years.

She has undergone intense radiation but is refusing to take her chemo pill. In her words, why should she prolong her life by another year, especially if it causes more side effects and won't cure her? My twin and I are her only children. She has no significant life partner, and there are no grandkids.

While I have kept in steady contact and maintained relations with her even during all our bad times, my brother has taken an "out of sight, out of mind" attitude. We both live a two- or three-hour distance away from Mom. The problem now is, my brother wants her to persevere through all the doctors' treatments, while I have accepted her decision to essentially let go. How can I help him come to terms with Mom's decision, and do you recommend any resources?

SON/BROTHER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SON/BROTHER: I firmly believe in a person's right to make their own decision when it comes to continuing or discontinuing treatment for a terminal illness. If your mother feels the chemotherapy has side effects that are too debilitating to tolerate, it should be her choice whether to

discontinue them rather than the preference of your brother. If your mother prefers palliative or hospice care, she is entitled to have it, and she should discuss it with her doctor, who can see that she receives it.

Two excellent books will provide the information you are seeking, and more. Read them and share them with your brother. Both include the topic of physician-assisted aid in dying.

The first, titled "Finish Strong," is written by Barbara Coombs Lee, the founder of Compassion and Choices, an organization to which I have been a longtime contributor. For free resources regarding your mom's decision, visit www.compassionandchoices.org.

The second book, authored by Diane Rehm, who hosted "The Diane Rehm Show" on NPR from 1979 to 2016, is titled "When My Time Comes" and will be followed by a documentary to be aired in the spring of 2021 on PBS.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I've been happily married for a few years. Prior to getting engaged, I had a close friend I had feelings for, but nothing ever came of it. We have remained close and see each other throughout the year at work conferences (he lives in a nearby town).

I have realized the feelings I have had for him over the years haven't gone away. Should I tell him how I feel or for-

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ever keep my peace?

HISTORY REPEATING IN ALABAMA

DEAR HISTORY: History isn't repeating itself. It's the same old story playing in your head. Ask yourself what you have to gain by telling him you still have romantic feelings for him. If the answer is trouble in your happy marriage, then keep your trap shut.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



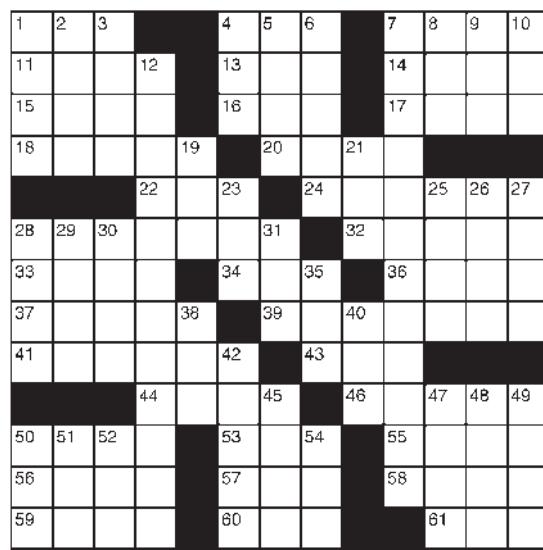
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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36	Anger			48	Med. plan	47	Med. plan
37	Starbucks: offering			49	options	48	options
39	Casual walks			50	Actor	Actor	Actor
41	Decline to participate			51	Sharif	51	Sharif
				52	Club	52	Club
				53	Gore and Green	53	Gore and Green
				54	Automation, for short	54	Expert

Last Friday's Answer 11/23



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miley Cyrus, 28; Salli Richardson-Whitfield, 53; Robin Roberts, 60; Bruce Hornsby, 66.

Happy Birthday: Work toward a goal. Refuse to let confusion set in or someone will use emotional tactics or temptation to lead you astray. Stick to the truth, and live up to your moral code of ethics. Focus on your responsibilities, cleaning house emotionally and physically, and making room for new beginnings. Live in the moment, and enjoy what makes you happy. Your numbers are 7, 15, 23, 27, 34, 45, 47.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Initiate the changes you want to make. Romance will bring you closer to someone you love. More stability will result if you discuss your intentions and make suggestions that lead to a healthier lifestyle. A surprise will lift your spirits. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will use persuasive measures to get you to take on added responsibility. Question what's being asked of you, and note how much others are contributing. You may want to specify what you are willing to do before you commit. **★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pace yourself. Know what you want to accomplish, and don't take on more. Enjoy the

process of getting things done the way you see fit. A personal change you make will boost your reputation and offer insight into what else you can accomplish. **★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Monitor what everyone around you is doing. Consider how you can use your skills to bring about improvements. If you don't like the change of direction someone is pursuing, back away and do your own thing. Use your energy productively. **★★**

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Review and revise your financial situation. Knowing exactly where you stand will help you make better decisions regarding your lifestyle and how best to move forward. A positive change regarding a meaningful partnership will encourage you to get involved in a joint venture. **★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Initiate the changes you want to make. Romance will bring you closer to someone you love. More stability will result if you discuss your intentions and make suggestions that lead to a healthier lifestyle. A surprise will lift your spirits. **★★★**

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CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pace yourself. Know what you want to accomplish, and don't take on more. Enjoy the

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refrain from sharing personal information. Spend more time getting your house in order. Set up a budget that will help you adjust to a change in income. Don't take on someone's problems or responsibilities. **★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be able to make adjustments to the way you work, earn your living or handle your personal affairs. Your insight will help you gauge how others feel and what they are capable of contributing. Personal growth will enlighten you. **★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let anyone push you in an uncomfortable direction. When uncertainty sets in, turn to something that makes you feel at ease. A physical or creative outlet will help you gain perspective around a situation that is worrisome. **★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Change your lifestyle to suit your needs. Don't feel you have to follow a routine that doesn't fit your schedule to get ahead. Use your intelligence and ingenuity, and follow your passion. A creative pastime looks promising. Romance is favored. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your persuasive charm will compel others to see and do things your way. A positive change will transpire with the help of someone offers. Set high standards, and don't stop until you reach your goal. Romance is encouraged. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, innovative and resourceful. You are intuitive and mysterious.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2	5	9	3					
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9	2		1					
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	8	6	7	3	4	1	5	9
5	1	4	8	6	9	2	7	3
7	3	9	1	5	2	8	6	4
1	9	7	3	8	5	4	2	6
8	6	2	4	9	7	5	3	1
3	4	5	2	1	6	9	8	7
4	7	3	5	2	1	6	9	8
9	5	8	6	4	3	7	1	2
6	2	1	9	7	8	3	4	5

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The killer letters spell the WONDERWORD.

COLORFUL BIRDS

R	C	N	I	B	O	R	A	T	S	D	O	○	W	L
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VanVleet staying with Raptors; Hayward to Hornets



NEW YORK (AP)—Fred VanVleet bet on himself. It paid off.

Gordon Hayward, meanwhile, is heading to a new home.

VanVleet agreed Saturday to a four-year, \$85 million contract to remain with the Toronto Raptors, a person with direct knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract remains unsigned. The fourth year of the contract is at VanVleet's option.

The Charlotte Hornets have wanted Hayward for years. On Saturday, they finally landed him, according to Priority Sports, the agency that represents the veteran forward. A person with knowledge of the terms, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal hadn't been signed, told the AP that Hayward will sign a four-year contract worth \$120 million. ESPN first reported the agreement between Hayward and the Hornets.

VanVleet, the undrafted guard from Wichita State, has played a huge role in the Raptors' recent successes, most importantly their run to the 2019 NBA championship. He has set career bests in scoring by wide margins in each of the last three seasons, that number rising to 17.6 points per game this past season.

Keeping VanVleet was of major importance to the Raptors, who have won at least 50 games in each of the last five seasons—by far the longest current streak in the NBA. Milwaukee has a two-year such streak, and the reigning NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers reached the 50-win mark last season.

It also fulfilled a VanVleet prophecy: He famously went undrafted four years ago, then passed on some low-money deals that he figured wouldn't pan into much.

"I turned those down. I bet on myself," VanVleet told friends and family on what would have been his draft night, a festive occasion that turned disappointing when the call from the NBA never came.

On Saturday, he tweeted his reaction: a retweet of himself saying "Bet on yourself" in 2016, with three moneybag emojis now attached.

Free agency opened in the NBA on Friday evening and VanVleet was one of the top available names. The Lakers' Anthony Davis remains unsigned though is expected to remain with the defending champions, and Hayward's future was another of the top questions remaining in the league as Day 2 of free agency



In this Sept. 11, 2020 file photo, Toronto Raptors' Fred VanVleet (23) goes up for a shot against the Boston Celtics during the first half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. AP

averaged 12.0 points in Miami's playoff run. He becomes another key veteran addition to the Suns, who finished last season with an 8-0 run in the restart bubble at Disney and swung a trade earlier this month for All-Star point guard Chris Paul to play alongside All-Star shooting guard Devin Booker.

PORTLAND

Carmelo Anthony is coming back for an 18th season, agreeing Saturday night on a one-year deal to remain with the Trail Blazers, a person with knowledge of the agreement confirmed to AP.

Portland gave Anthony an opportunity to extend his career last season and he rewarded the Blazers by starting all 58 of his appearances and averaging 15.4 points.

LA LAKERS

The Los Angeles Lakers are bringing back a significant piece of their championship team.

Free agent Kentavious Caldwell-Pope has agreed to a three-year, \$40 million deal to return to the Lakers.

Caldwell-Pope was one of many Lakers role players to come up big during the playoffs, especially at the 3-point line where Caldwell-Pope shot 42.1 percent from deep in the team's first three playoff series.

OKLAHOMA

Trevor Ariza is on the move for the third time this week, going to Oklahoma City from Detroit along with Dallas' Justin Jackson in a three-team trade.

Also in the deal, the Mavericks sent Delon Wright to the Pistons for James Johnson, a person with knowledge of the details said early Saturday.

Ariza was sent from Portland to Houston two days before the draft, then shipped to the Pistons on draft night Wednesday. The 35-year-old has already played for 10 teams.

LA CLIPPERS

With reigning Sixth Man of the Year Montrezl Harrell headed to the Los Angeles Lakers, the Los Angeles Clippers are in the market for a new rotational big man.

According to reports, the Clippers are pursuing two notable names in Serge Ibaka and Marc Gasol to fill the void.

began Saturday.

It was not a question for long.

Hayward turned down a \$34 million option for this season with Boston, and the Celtics were in talks with other teams—including Indiana, which was believed to be a preference of Hayward's—on potential sign-and-trade deals.

Instead, it appears the Celtics are seeing Hayward walk away as a free agent.

Hayward agreed to a four-year offer sheet worth about \$63 million with the Hornets in 2014, a deal that was matched by the Utah Jazz—Hayward's original team.

Opting out deadline

The NBA and National Basketball Players Association have agreed to a Dec. 1 deadline date for players to opt out of the 2020-21 season.

The option was adopted prior to the NBA restart last July for players concerned about participating in Orlando amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine players ended up exercising that right over the summer.

The following were transactions made by teams since free agency opened last Nov. 20.

ATLANTA

Guard Rajon Rondo took to Instagram to post what appeared to be a farewell message to the Lakers, after he helped them win this past season's NBA title. He thanked the team's front office and coach Frank Vogel, among others.

He ended the post with

"Now, what's next..." The answer came quickly.

Rondo agreed later Saturday to a two-year deal with the Hawks, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told AP.

Rondo became the latest addition in a busy two days of movement for Atlanta. The Hawks agreed with guard Kris Dunn earlier Saturday on a two-year contract worth \$10 million, a second person told AP. And Atlanta also agreed Friday with Danilo Gallinari on a three-year contract.

BOSTON

Tristan Thompson agreed on a two-year, \$19 million contract to join the Celtics—ending his nine-year stint with the Cleveland Cavaliers, a person with knowledge of the deal told the AP.

Thompson averaged 9.4 points and 8.7 rebounds in his nine seasons, a stint that obviously included playing a key part of helping Cleveland win its lone NBA championship in 2016. He leaves as the Cavaliers' No. 3 career rebounder and played in 447 consecutive games from 2012 through 2017.

DALLAS

Wesley Iwundu agreed on a two-year deal with the Mavericks, another low-key addition as the club tries to improve its athleticism and get a little tougher around young stars Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis.

The 25-year-old Houston native spent his first three sea-

sons in Orlando after the Magic drafted Iwundu early in the second round in 2017. He has career averages of 5.8 points and 2.5 rebounds.

DENVER

Paul Millsap is staying with the Nuggets on a one-year deal that will be worth around \$10 million, a person with knowledge told AP. The news of the forward's decision was first reported by The Athletic and The Denver Post.

MIAMI

The Heat agreed to a two-year deal starting at \$5.9 million for this season with top defensive guard Avery Bradley, agent Charles Briscoe said.

Bradley has averaged 11.8 points in his career. He spent last season with the Lakers but did not accompany them to the NBA restart bubble at Walt Disney World. He averaged 8.6 points in 49 games, mostly starts, for the Lakers last season.

The second year of that deal is at the Heat option, just like the deals they struck Friday with returnees Goran Dragic and Meyers Leonard. That protects Miami's spending flexibility for the summer of 2021.

Moe Harkless, who was briefly—on paper, anyway—a member of the Heat in July 2019 before getting moved as part of the trade that brought Jimmy Butler to Miami, is now with the Heat and for real this time.

MILWAUKEE

Priority Sports announced that Bobby Portis, who averaged 10.1 points last season for New York, agreed to a deal with the Bucks. Later Saturday, a person with knowledge of the move told AP that Milwaukee and guard D.J. Augustin agreed on a three-year contract.

ORLANDO

Michael Carter-Williams is returning to the Magic on a two-year contract, a person with knowledge of the matter told AP. The Athletic first reported that agreement. Carter-Williams averaged 7.2 points in 45 games off Orlando's bench last season.

PHILADELPHIA

Dwight Howard became the first announced free-agent signing of this offseason, completing his one-year, \$2.6 million deal. He signed Saturday; players on certain kinds of contracts, like the veteran minimum one he agreed to Friday night, did not have to wait for the traditional signing period to begin Sunday.

PHOENIX

Forward Jae Crowder, a big part of Miami's run last season to the NBA Finals, agreed on a three-year contract that will be worth nearly \$30 million to join the Phoenix Suns, according to a person familiar with those negotiations.

Crowder became a starter last season for the Heat and

Nationals pursuing LeMahieu, Bryant

 **WASHINGTON**—The Washington Nationals are pursuing former New York Yankee second baseman DJ LeMahieu, according to MLB Network's Jon Morosi.

"The Nats are showing continued interest in DJ LeMahieu, whom they also pursued as a free agent two off seasons ago," Morosi said.

LeMahieu declined the Yankees' \$18.9 million qualifying contract offer earlier in November. He had 26 home runs, 102 RBI and a .327 batting average in 2019. In 2020, he led the majors with a .364 batting average and the American League with a 1.011 OPS.

The Nationals are also at the center of trade rumors surrounding star Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant.

Bryant and the Nats have been linked multiple times over the years. The latest rumor comes after a 2020 season in which Washington finished last in the NL East and had the sixth-worst WAR among all MLB third basemen, according to Baseball-Reference.

It's not clear who might be the centerpiece in a package for Bryant, as the Nationals' farm system has been severely depleted in recent years thanks to previous trades and prospect graduations.

Former top prospect Carter Kieboom struggled in his tryout at third base in 2020, and the Nats don't have another obvious replacement after losing star Anthony Rendon after the 2019 season.

Bryant is still just 28-years old and one of the better hitters in baseball, though he has



AP
The Washington Nationals are also at the center of trade rumors surrounding star Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant, seen here at bat in an undated file photo.

\$91,800 to \$93,000.

MLB announced last February that it is raising 2021 minimums for minor league contracts, from \$290 weekly to \$400 at rookie and short-season levels, from \$290 to \$500 at Class A, \$350 to \$600 at Double-A \$502 to \$700 at Triple-A.

Mets candidates

Cross one potential name off the list of potential candidates for the Mets' top baseball job.

Cleveland Indians general manager Mike Chernoff will not interview with the team, according to league sources. That is not expected to change.

Former Miami Marlins president Michael Hill remains the only known interviewee since Steve Cohen and Sandy Alderson took control of the franchise. Oakland A's GM David Forst is also now seen as unlikely, per sources.

The 44-year-old Forst has been in the A's front office since 2000. After serving as a scout, Forst was named assistant GM in 2004, a role he served until 2015, when he was promoted to general manager as Billy Beane was elevated to Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations.

On Tuesday, it was reported that the Mets had been denied permission by the Milwaukee Brewers to interview their head of baseball operations, David Stearns. (AP/NBC)

yet to repeat his terrific 2016 MVP season. He batted just .206 in 2020, though he did hit 31 home runs and make the NL All-Star team in the last full MLB season in 2019.

Bryant is also versatile in the field, having played nearly 200 games in the outfield with the Cubs, but his primary position is at third base, and that's where the Nationals could best use him. Not only would he solidify the hot corner, but he would also provide a bat to

slot behind Juan Soto in the lineup, giving the Nats' young star better protection.

\$570,500 minimum salary

The major league minimum salary will rise to \$570,500 next season, a hike of \$7,000.

Under Major League Baseball's collective bargaining agreement with the players' association, the minimum was \$535,000 in 2017, \$545,000 in 2018 and \$555,000 in 2019.

In the final two seasons of the five-year deal, the increase is calculated as the rise from October to October in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

The October 2020 figure was announced Nov. 12 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the MLB rise was confirmed by the commissioner's office on Thursday after it conferred with the players' association.

Because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, MLB and the players' association agreed to prorated salaries for 2020, which reduced the major league minimum from \$563,500 to \$208,704.

The minor league minimum for a player signing his first major league contract increases from \$46,000 to \$46,600 next season, and the minor league minimum for a player signing a second or later major league contract goes up from

sliced his backhand more than usual and made forehand errors more than usual.

Medvedev had been 0-3 against Nadal, including a five-set loss in the 2019 U.S. Open final, and the lanky 24-year-old Russian's top-notch serve, capable backhand and willingness to hang in long baseline rallies provided Saturday's breakthrough.

A year ago, Medvedev went 0-3 in round-robin play at the ATP Finals, while Thiem was the runner-up to Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Whoever wins Sunday on the indoor hard court—where things will be quiet because spectators are banned due to the coronavirus pandemic—will be the tournament's sixth different champion over the past six years, the longest such stretch since 1974-79.

It was the first time since 2004 that the top four players in the rankings filled the four semifinal slots for the ATP Finals. Djokovic, already as-

sured of finishing the year at No. 1 for a record-tying sixth time, was trying to match Roger Federer's mark of six ATP Finals trophies.

In the second set against Djokovic, Thiem's ace put him ahead 6-5 in the tiebreaker, one point from victory.

But Djokovic saved that initial chance with a 127 mph service winner. Thiem's next opportunity came at 7-6; he double-faulted.

"I was, like, so tight in my whole body," Thiem said.

The third was at 9-8, when he pushed a down-the-line forehand wide. At 10-9, Djokovic erased No. 4 with a forehand that landed right on a line.

That began a three-point run by Djokovic to steal the set.

But Thiem regrouped and his 300th career tour-level victory made him only the second man with at least five wins each against the Big Three of Djokovic (5-7 career mark), Federer (5-2) and Nadal (6-9).

Andy Murray is the other.

Australian Open

Meanwhile, Tennis Australia dismissed on Saturday media reports claiming the start of the Australian Open is set to be pushed back from January to February or March next year due to COVID-19 protocols in the country.

The Herald Sun newspaper reported the year's first Grand Slam risked being deferred even as the organizers discuss quarantine arrangements with the Victoria state government.

"It's pure speculation," a TA spokesperson said.

"Earlier in the week we... (said) how we continue to work closely with the Victorian government and we will update with more information as soon as possible, and there's no update from that at the moment."

The TA had planned for players and their entourages to arrive in Victoria in mid-December to have time to undertake a mandatory two-week quarantine period before competing in Melbourne in January.

No Nadal-Djokovic duel at ATP Finals

 **LONDON** (AP)—Instead of No. 1 Novak Djokovic vs. No. 2 Rafael Nadal for the ATP Finals trophy, it'll be No. 3 Dominic Thiem against No. 4 Daniil Medvedev.

Nadal had won 71 matches in a row when grabbing the opening set, and he served for the victory in Saturday's semifinals when leading 5-4 in the second set. But Medvedev broke at love there and came all the way back to win 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3, claiming the last four games.

"It's great that we managed to beat two of the biggest players in the history of the sport," Medvedev said. "It's super for tennis."

Thiem frittered away four match points in his semifinal against Djokovic because he was "tight and nervous" during a second-set tiebreaker. Thiem gathered himself,

though, and eventually reeled off seven of the match's last eight points after trailing 4-0 in the last tiebreaker, winning 7-5, 6-7 (10), 7-6 (5).

"What he did from 0-4 in the third-set tiebreaker was just unreal," said Djokovic, a 17-time Grand Slam champion. "I don't think I played bad. ... He just crushed the ball and everything went in."

Thiem ended Djokovic's bid for a record-tying sixth ATP Finals trophy, while Medvedev prevented Nadal from continuing to pursue the most significant title the 20-time major champ hasn't won.

Instead of a 57th meeting between Djokovic and Nadal, Thiem and Medvedev will face off for the fifth time. Thiem leads 3-1, including a straight-set victory in the U.S. Open semifinals in September en route to the 27-year-old Austrian's first Grand Slam

championship.

"I, for sure, can cause him some trouble," Medvedev said. Did that to Nadal, too.

Nadal seemed on his way to the final when he reeled off four consecutive games in the second set for a chance to serve for the match. He surprisingly stumbled.

"I played a bad game. That's it," said Nadal, who deflected a question about whether he had any physical issues during the match.

Once he was back in the match, Medvedev took advantage, dominating the ensuing tiebreaker with the help of a shanked lob winner, a forehand winner that concluded a 26-stroke exchange and a leaping backhand that drew a netted forehand.

Nadal couldn't shake that off, dropping the match's last three games as he serve-and-volleyed more than usual,

Sikkel, Campbell strike anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Orlando City, Columbus reach MLS semis

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)— Benji Michel's goal in a second penalty shootout and a late save by a reserve defender summoned to play goalie helped send Orlando City into the MLS Eastern Conference semifinals with a wild 1-1 (6-5) victory over NYCFC on Saturday.

No. 4 seed Orlando next plays Nov. 29 against top-seeded Philadelphia or No. 8 New England.

Orlando thought it had won at the end of the first penalty shootout when goalkeeper Pedro Gallese turned away NYCFC's fifth penalty kick. But during the team's brief celebration, officials ruled Gallese left his line early, drawing his second yellow card. Gallese then drew a red card when he disputed the call.

Referees concluded Orlando backup goalie Brian Rowe was ineligible, which forced it to bring in reserve center back Rodrigo Schlegel in net. Orlando briefly lost track of the penalty kick count and thought it had won after Schlegel turned away NYCFC and started celebrating. Michel then came on to end it.

Orlando scored in the fifth

minute on a penalty kick from Nani, the result of a hand ball in the penalty area against NYCFC's Anton Tinnerholm.

Three minutes later, Maxime Chanot tied it on a header off a corner kick from Jesus Medina.

Gallese helped keep it even in the first half with four saves. At the 43rd minute, Gallese stretched for saves to deny Valentin Castellanos and Keaton Parks seconds apart.

Meanwhile, Pedros Santos, Darlington Nagbe and Gyasi Zardes scored and the Columbus Crew beat the New York Red Bulls, 3-2, to advance to the MLS Eastern Conference semifinals.

Third-seeded Columbus will play Nov. 29 against the winner of the Tuesday night match between second-seeded Toronto FC and No. 7 Nashville.

Seventeen-year-old Caden Clark gave the Red Bulls the lead in the 23rd minute. Santos tied it on a penalty kick in the 26th, Nagbe put the Crew ahead in the 46th and Zardes made it 3-1 in the 68th.

Brian White scored for New York in the 90th.

Classic were Lagmay, Ye, and Christina Tudela.

Tudela ruled the bikini class, defeating Jamila Alegre.

Tudela said it took her four months to prepare for her debut in the annual tournament and since she can't train when facilities closed at the onset of the pandemic, she had to set up a "home gym."

"I had high body fat per-

centage so I trained almost two hours per session and work out from Monday through Saturday," the San Vicente resident said.

Meanwhile, Ye and Lagmay won in the tall class men's physique and bodybuilding, respectively. Lagmay, a veteran in the bodybuilding contest, also took the best poser award.

This year's Dee Clay Clas-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Brilliant Star School's Moshe Sikkel nears the finish line in the elementary division race during the opening leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held early this month at the CPA Airport Field.

doza (11:45), Marq Hernandez (11:48), Kristen Sierra (11:49), and Mateo Almada (16:17).

With the qualifiers done, organizers NMA and PSS will move ahead with the championship race for the elementary division on Dec. 4.

In the finale, schools are allowed a maximum of six runners (must have at least two boys and two girls on the team), but only the Top 4 finishers from each squad will get points that will be used to determine the team champion. Deadline for submission of rosters for the co-ed U11 division is on Nov. 25.

NMSA

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cific Games last year will be committed to don the colors of the host country if their sport is added to the 2022 Mini Games program.

The quadrennial competition, which was supposed due to take next year, but was moved due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be held from June 17 to 25, less than a month before the 2022 Micronesian Games kick off in the Marshall Islands.

(8:40) came in at fourth and were joined by his teammates Allie Brussel (9:17), Micaela Tenorio (11:07), Philip Seman (12:44), and Cooper Fong (12:49); and Mt. Carmel School's Gabriel Hernandez (15:00) and Georgia Baetge (9:51) rounded out the Top 5 in Heat 2.

Completing Heat 1's finishers list were SIS' Wind-



sor (8:49) and Beatrice (10:28) Gross, Jake Duenas (10:36), Lucy Woo (10:54), and Yummy Peng (11:42); Brilliant Star's Aiden (10:18) and Damien (10:35) Camacho, and LoVel Spaeth (11:21); and William S. Reyes Elementary School's Jiro Quin-

sic saw a significant drop in the number of participants—from a record 28 in 2019 to seven, but organizer and founder Dee Clayton understood the decrease in the turnout because of the pandemic.

"It's important that we're

able to hold something for our athletes, who have been training for a long time stay active and keep their form amid this pandemic. We have to move on and do something while still following safety measures against COVID-19," Clayton said.

She also thanked the following companies for supporting last Saturday's event: Megabyte Computer, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Latte Built 24/7 Fitness and Nutrition Gym, Michelob ULTRA, Gold's Gym, Island Floral, and Topnotch.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Organizer Dee Clayton, fifth left, joins participants in the 2020 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship for a group photo last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Christina Tudela strikes a pose for the judges.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jun Lagmay flexes his muscles.



VanVleet staying with Raptors; Hayward to Hornets
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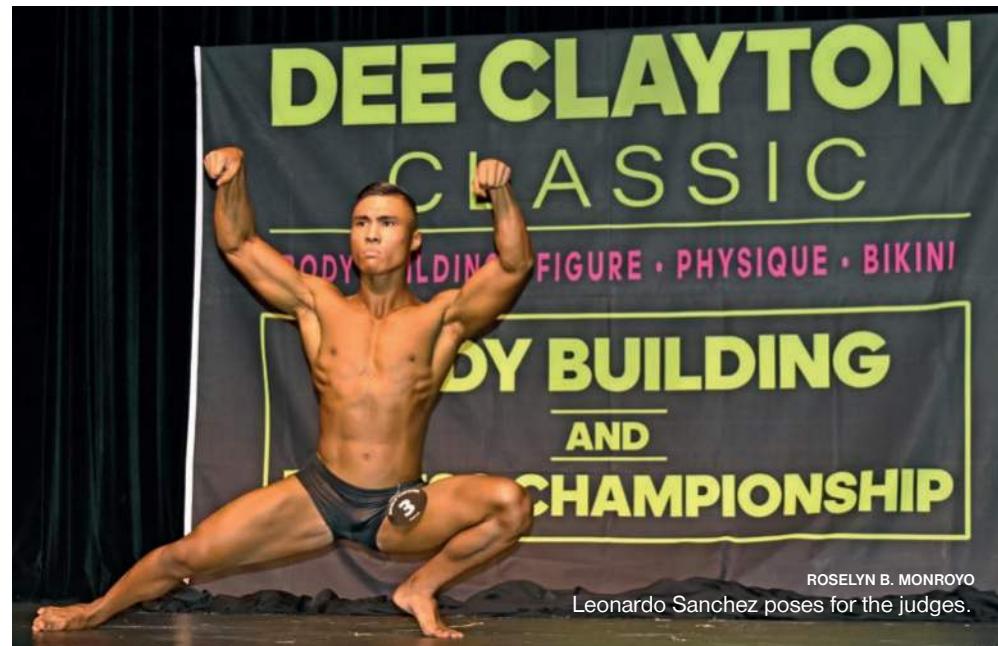
20 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Okawa triumphs in DC Classic



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Javin Okawa strikes a pose during the awards ceremony for the 2020 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Leonardo Sanchez poses for the judges.

Kagman resident Javin Okawa regained his top form in time to win in the 2020 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship held last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

Okawa took the overall first place honors in the men's physique category, won the short class in the same division, and was also adjudged as best in abs in his second appearance in the annual competition.

"After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I lost some muscles, so I kind of started all over again. I did a lot of catching up and pushed myself harder in the last five months to get into shape again," said Okawa.

wa, who trains at Gold's Gym and Latte Built.

Okawa was ranked second in the short class category when he debuted in the Dee Clayton Classic and in his return to the tournament, he defeated Leonardo Sanchez, Francis Enriquez, Jiao Chun Ye, and Jun Lagmay for the overall men's physique.

Sanchez is another returnee to the competition and this



year prevailed in the men's classic physique.

Like Okawa, Sanchez also faced challenges preparing for the Dee Clayton Classic because of the pandemic.

"With the gyms closed in the first few months after the pandemic hit, I had to train on my own at home—sort of DIY on my diet meals, workout,

See OKAWA on Page 19

NMSA bats for tennis, weightlifting inclusion in Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has officially requested the inclusion of tennis and weightlifting on the calendar of events for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

The appeal was made during the NMSA General Assembly last Thursday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan through Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, who attended the meeting virtually.

In response, Minogue said NMSA's request will be discussed at the PGC's meeting on Dec. 7.



ly lined up 12 sports in its program in 2019 before the number was trimmed down to six due to budgetary constraints, as the CNMI back then was still recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu.

The six sports approved for the Mini Games are athletics, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, triathlon, baseball.

"It will be good to make the Mini Games bigger by adding two more sports. We will discuss the request and make a quick decision as soon as possible so athletes and officials can start preparing," said Minogue.

The NMSA membership has strongly pushed for the addition of the two sports that have delivered for the CNMI in the past off-island competitions. Tennis handed the Commonwealth three gold medals (men's sin-

gles, team event, and mixed doubles) and silver (men's doubles) in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa. Weightlifting, on the other hand, brought home 15 medals (six gold medals, seven silvers, and three bronzes) from the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president and many-time CNMI national coach Jeff Race, at this early, assured that the players that gave the Commonwealth medals in the Pa-

See NMSA on Page 19

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Many-time national tennis team coach Jeff Race talks to Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue virtually during the Northern Marianas Sports Association General Assembly at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Thursday.

